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Chairman Oberstar, Ranking Member Mica, and Members of the Committee, thank you once again for providing me with the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) progress in implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

Background

Since February 2009, EPA has worked diligently to ensure that Recovery Act funds are used efficiently and effectively to help rebuild critical infrastructure in some of our neediest communities; invest in jobs that would put our citizens back to work; improve public health and the environment, and provide lasting benefits to our economy.

EPA received \$7.22 billion for programs administered by the Agency to protect and promote both green jobs and a healthier environment. These programs include the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the Superfund Program, the Brownfields Program, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program, and the Diesel Emission Reduction Programs.

As I reported to you when I appeared before the Committee in February, we worked hard to meet the deadlines to distribute 100 percent of the funds to our partners to clear the way for rapid investments in construction, land reuse and redevelopment. With that task behind us, we closely monitored expenditures, tracked how quickly cleanup and construction projects are completed, and documented environmental and economic achievements. The news is good.

Jobs Created

According to the latest data, recipients of EPA Recovery Act funds reported more than 9,600 direct jobs as of March 31. This is a significant increase from the December 31, 2009 report where approximately 6,800 jobs were reported. We have seen an increase of 2,800 reported new jobs in just three months, the majority coming from State Revolving Fund projects. We are very encouraged by these numbers and believe they will continue to grow.

Many of the job sectors are benefiting from Recovery Act funds. The work includes cleanup operation and management, laboratory sampling and analysis, hazardous waste disposal and management, construction and monitoring equipment rental, water and soil treatment, and environmental engineering and management.

We are encouraged by the number of new jobs being supported through Recovery Act funding, particularly those aimed at training individuals to pursue environmental careers. One such example comes from a three year, \$500,000 Brownfields Job Training grant given to Florida State College in Jacksonville (FSCJ). Through this grant, students recruited from

targeted Brownfields communities within the City's Empowerment Zone, have an opportunity to learn how to do environmental cleanup activities. On February 26, 2010, 22 of the 24 students graduated from the first job training course. Six of those graduates had jobs within two weeks of graduation. One student received a two year scholarship funded by the FSCJ Foundation's scholarship program. That award will enable the graduate to pursue a degree in environmental science.

Implementation Progress

Of the \$4 billion provided to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), states and tribes played a critical role in selecting projects, dispersing funds, and overseeing spending. They selected funding priorities based on both public health and environmental factors, in addition to readiness to proceed to construction capability. As of March 31, 2010, 90 percent, or 1,585 of the non-tribal CWSRF projects have started construction and 58 are complete. Thirty tribal projects are under way and nine projects are already completed.

The Superfund program received \$600 million in Recovery Act funds with the overall objectives to initiate and accelerate cleanup at National Priority List sites, maximize job creation and retention, and provide environmental and economic benefits. We are achieving these objectives by starting new cleanup projects, accelerating cleanups at projects already underway, increasing the number of workers and activities at cleanup projects, and returning affected sites to more productive use. Currently, 46 Superfund sites have initiated on-site construction with new or ongoing projects, with the five remaining Recovery Act funded Superfund sites commencing work within the next two months. Twenty-seven percent, or \$165 million of the

\$600 million has been specifically obligated to sites in rural areas. Twenty percent of Superfund sites have achieved construction completion and at 60 percent of the sites, human exposures are now under control.

Of the \$100 million allocated for the Brownfields Program to assess and clean up contaminated land for redevelopment or reuse, assessments are complete for 233 properties. We are currently processing \$10.75 million in loans and sub-grant activity for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grantees.

Environmental Success Stories

We are already seeing numerous examples of how Recovery Act funds are responsible for environmental success stories across the nation. I would like to begin by talking about a Recovery Act project that embodies several of the top priorities of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson including protecting America's waters, cleaning up communities, and working for environmental justice. As you know, in many urban cities, surrounding rivers, streams and creeks face multiple types of stressors. Trash and litter, along with other pollutants threaten urban waterways, such as Indian Creek and Cobbs Creek in Pennsylvania. Sometimes people are responsible for the problem, but more often, pollution comes from runoff from paved surfaces during heavy rains and snowmelt.

Although there are federal and state environmental laws to protect these waterways, EPA and the states cannot do it alone. That is why projects led by local grassroots organizations that engage citizens are so important. On a recent visit to Cobbs Creek Park, I was able to see how

residents of this West Philadelphia community have come to love and enjoy this natural space for many years. I was also very impressed to see how Recovery Act funds, focusing on green infrastructure, are helping to empower local residents to take important and critical steps to protect their communities. Planting trees, cleaning up trash and debris, and removing invasive plant species from around a creek may seem like simple tasks, but they are going a long way in helping Indian Creek and Cobbs Creek recover from years of neglect. It was especially encouraging to see how Recovery Act funds are being put to good use to enhance this community's knowledge about environmental issues and to advance efforts to address environmental injustice.

Another example of an ARRA funded, CWSRF project that is underway, comes from the city of Redondo Beach, California. Work has begun on the Alta Vista Park Diversion and Reuse Project. This project will protect coastal waters from urban storm water runoff – the primary cause of coastal water pollution in Southern California. Storm water is being collected, treated and used to irrigate Alta Vista Park. Excess storm water, not needed for irrigation, will be infiltrated into the ground, helping to reduce discharges to the ocean and environmental impacts to the beach south of the Redondo Beach Municipal Pier.

Recovery Act money is making a real difference in communities including several Brownfields projects in Camden, New Jersey. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit this area as well, and to personally experience and see the environmental conditions found in Camden, the spirit of its residents, and the progress EPA has made in cleaning up areas for reuse by this community.

Camden has a population of almost 80,000 people. It is a city of many historic firsts, including the first commercial recording studio, color television, and drive-in movie theater. During World War II, it was home to the largest, most productive shipyard in the world. Today, this eight square mile, densely populated municipality contains many Brownfields sites. The majority of these sites contain petroleum contamination and other hazardous wastes associated with volatile organic compounds. These substances can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation and damage to the liver, kidney, and central nervous system. There are also extensive heavy metals in this area including, the cancer-causing hexavalent chromium. These substances are found throughout the soils and groundwater.

Four hundred thousand dollars of Brownfields Recovery Act funds will enable the Camden Redevelopment Agency to conduct environmental site assessments and support community outreach activities in this area. The area of focus includes the Interstate 676 and Federal Street Corridors, where about 54 percent of families live below the poverty level and 80 to 90 percent of residents are minorities.

On a 3 acre property along Federal Street, two buildings used for the manufacturing of steam heating supplies in the early 1900s stand idle. In the mid 1900s, a series of oil and water based printing ink manufacturers used the property. The last manufacturer on the property shut down its operations in 1981 and the area has remained an unused eyesore ever since. Thanks to Recovery Act funding, Brownfields assessments will help to facilitate cleanup, eventual property

reuse as a light industrial park, and address some of the environmental justice issues facing this community.

As I mentioned earlier, Recovery Act funding has helped EPA's Superfund response. One such example is in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This Superfund cleanup consisted of removing lead and arsenic contaminated soil and gravel and replacing it with clean soil, gravel or asphalt. By utilizing more than 75 percent of the \$16.8 million in Recovery Act funds allocated to this project, we cleaned up 260 properties, more than doubling clean up activities completed during the previous construction season.

In addition to the environmental benefits, these funds created jobs in a community that has been suffering from high unemployment for over twenty years. Contractor jobs included laborers, heavy equipment operators, and truck drivers hired from the area to work for two locally based contracting companies. The creation or retention of these livable wage jobs helped dozens of local families stay in their community. The funds for this project also went for equipment rentals, fuel, soil and gravel supplies, and other materials purchased locally or regionally, further stimulating the economy of northern Idaho.

Just as Camden, New Jersey has benefited from Brownfields funding, Camden along with Gloucester City, also received funding for both Superfund Remedial Design and Remedial Action activities. This \$22 million project is helping to clean up the radiologically contaminated soils around the former General Gas Mantle Facility in Camden. EPA and the State of New Jersey have reduced the immediate risks at the site from gamma radiation by installing shielding

on some of the properties, removing elevated surface contamination from several residential properties and a public park, and demolishing the former General Gas Mantle building in Camden. To address long term exposure risks, EPA has plans to complete the cleanup of the radiological contamination on more than 100 properties in residential areas in Camden and Gloucester City.

Economic Recovery

Recovery Act funds have made a difference in helping to create new and retain existing jobs needed to move EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Brownfields Program and Superfund Program projects forward. They also have brought a new level of attention to the need for more green jobs. As a result of Recovery Act funds, many more individuals and communities have a better appreciation for, interest in, and training suited for green jobs than ever before.

In addition to helping to provide immediate and direct sources of employment for individuals involved in environmental clean up and construction work, many of these Recovery Act funded projects provide an additional level of employment support and economic stimulus for the many industries, manufacturers, and suppliers that provide materials used in the construction and clean up process.

Other environmental outcomes associated with environmental clean up and construction projects, especially those associated with the Brownfields Program and Superfund Program, are that they provide an economic opportunity for an area in need. A building or home on polluted

or contaminated property does not sell. It stagnates along with the economy of that area. When a community is free from pollution, property owners have something of value to sell and land that has lain barren and unused becomes ripe for redevelopment, bringing new industries, companies, small business and jobs to an area. Environmental renewal provides an economic boost to everyone.

When we use the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to make our nation's water resources clean and safe, the economy also benefits. Developers and businesses find they have more attractive incentives to encourage them to build and locate their facilities in healthy and pollution free communities. Most importantly, all Americans benefit when they can work, live, and enjoy recreational activities in communities that have met water quality standards.

Conclusion

EPA was fortunate to have received more than \$7 billion in Recovery Act funding to support a number of important environmental programs that have helped to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for countless Americans. Funds used to support EPA's work under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Superfund, Brownfields, Leaking Underground Storage Tank, and Clean Diesel programs are achieving real results.

Recovery Act funds were used for 9,600 jobs, in the last reporting cycle as reported by recipients, including many new green jobs in emerging technologies. We are seeing measurable improvements in our environment as our states, communities, and other partners work side by side with us to reduce the impact of storm water on our wastewater systems and to assess, clean

up, and return communities to a state where they are safe and poised for redevelopment. Our work in this area has been very beneficial in some of the nation's neediest communities and populations – communities where environmental justice issues have gone unaddressed for many years.

We are pleased with the rate in which our partners have been able to place Recovery Act funds under contract and begin construction on numerous projects across the nation. Over the next six months we anticipate many new project starts, more job creation, and other success stories where there are measurable public health and environmental results.

We look forward to continuing our work with this Committee, our partners, and the public to ensure an economically and environmentally healthier country for all Americans.

Thank you again for inviting me to testify here today, and I look forward to answering your questions.